

**HERTFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS/MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM – JUDICIAL CENTER**

Minutes January 16, 2024 – 7:00 PM

Present: Com. Andre` M. Lassiter, Sr., Chairman, Com. William F. Mitchell, Jr., Vice-Chair, Com. Leroy Douglas, and Com. John D. Horton

Absent: Com. Ronald J. Gatling

Also Present with the Board: Mr. Kevin Patterson, Interim County Manager, Dr. Renee Tyler, Clerk to the Board, Attorney Charles L. Revelle, III, County Attorney
Attorney Maria Jones, Revelle & Lee

The following employees attended the meeting: Director Leslie Edwards, Director Felicia Gaskins, Demarcus Thompson, PIO KaWania Parker, Director Brenda Brown, and Sheriff Dexter Hayes.

Chairman Andre` M. Lassiter called the meeting to order and Pastor John Porter, Meherrin Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, NC, provided the Invocation proceeded by the song “We Shall Overcome” by Mrs. Tameka Johnson, Senior Admin. Asst./EMS.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Com. Leroy Douglas, seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of January 2, 2023 Minutes
- Approval of Taxpayer Refunds CoreLogic, Sondra Salter and Tammy Lassiter

\$7,615.93-Corelogic, Vendor# 11016, refund for overpayment on mortgage payments, (taxpayers paid taxes), \$260.00, Sondra R Salter, Vendor# 8403, taxpayer paid tax bill in full and a partial adjustment on solid waste; \$297.73- Tammy L. Lassiter: Vendor# 16595, refund for overpayment on property taxes paid twice by taxpayer by check & web.

Resolutions Honoring Mrs. Caroline Stephenson (Cultivator, Inc.), Mrs. Kim Schwartz, Mr. Jesse Dickens, and District Court Judge Rob Lewis, II:



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. André Lassiter, Chairman
Mr. John D. Horton, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Leroy Douglas

Mr. Ronald J. Gatling
Mr. William F. Mitchell, Jr

RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. CAROLINE F. STEPHENSON

WHEREAS, community leaders are not necessarily elected to their positions, it is leadership in, for, and by the community. Mrs. Carolina F. Stephenson undeniably is a community leader and native and resident of Hertford County; and

WHEREAS, with genuine conviction, the DNA of her community service can be found in Hertford County and its neighboring counties as a filmmaker, documentary film "Children Go Where I Send You" (2012), about HC Rosenwald Schools, placed 2 historic markers honoring the contributions of African Americans (2019 - Ruffin Brothers Grocery, 2021 - African American Education in Murfreesboro) African American Baseball in Hertford County (2023), distributed tens of thousands of books at housing authorities, mobile home parks, church parking lots, and schools since 2016.

WHEREAS, in 2016 Ms. Stephenson Co-Founded Cultivator, Inc., a nonprofit that serves rural Northeastern North Carolina. In efforts with the HC African American History Coalition, she organized the following events: the Hertford County African American History Coalition (2018), Murfreesboro Black History Walking Tour; Juneteenth Freedom Festival in Murfreesboro (2021), "Celebration of Black Baseball" (2023), "Veteran's Day" Program (2023) and "Remembering Riverside & Georgia Pacific in Murfreesboro (2024); and

WHEREAS, her continuous community service includes membership on the Directors Guild of America since 2001 and the North Caroliniana *Society* since 2023 promoting an increased Knowledge and appreciation of *North Carolina's* heritage; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephenson's equitable commitment to community service is foundational to Hertford County citizens, which will impact generations to come, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by and for the Board of Commissioners of Hertford County, hereby congratulate and thank Mrs. Caroline Stephenson, recognizing her outstanding contributions to the citizens of Hertford County and beyond.

Adopted this the 16th day of January, 2024.

Hertford County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Andre` M. Lassiter, Sr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Dr. Renee Tyler, NCCCC Clerk to the Board

(SEAL)



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. André Lassiter, Chairman
Mr. John D. Horton, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Leroy Douglas

Mr. Ronald J. Gatling
Mr. William F. Mitchell, Jr

RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. KIM SCHWARTZ

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the Hertford County Board of County Commissioners recognize those individuals who, through their remarkable efforts and careers, have distinguished themselves through the compassionate care exemplified in leadership and support of healthcare, the training of the next generation of healthcare center CEO professionals, and the enhancement of the well-being of the citizens of the County of Hertford; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kim Schwartz a native of Pennsylvania has retired from the healthcare field as CEO at Roanoke -Chowan Community Health Center (RCCHC) after 19 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Schwartz began a distinguished career in 2005 as the first female CEO of RCCHC and is deeply committed to serving the community. Her many contributions to her profession include guiding RCCHC's growth from a Federally Qualified Health Center lookalike in one building to its current status as an award-winning, nationally known FQHC with five sites, two of which have pharmacies, one mobile unit, a farmworker outreach team, a school-based health center, and a Dental Integrated Care site being built in Aulander. Part of that expansion included securing a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Facilities Improvement Grant of \$6.2 million and additional partner funding to build 43,000 sq. ft. facility in Ahoskie expanding from 27 exam rooms to 48, aided in the establishment of the ECU School of Family Medicine Rural Residency Program bringing medical students to practice in Hertford County and other rural areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, her expertise and leadership has been invaluable to Hertford County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center and the citizens of Hertford County have benefited from her considerable talents and dedication to serving others; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hertford County Board of County Commissioners hereby congratulate and thank Mrs. Kim Schwartz, recognizing her outstanding contributions to the Healthcare field and her record of community service. We extend to her our best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement.

Adopted this the 16th day of January, 2024.

Hertford County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Andre` M. Lassiter, Sr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Dr. Renee Tyler, NCCCC Clerk to the Board

(SEAL)



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. KIM SCHWARTZ

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kim Schwartz has continually been mindful of the healthcare interests of Hertford County Citizens, and worked tirelessly to advance healthcare programs providing health equity to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, she has faithfully and with honor provided outstanding leadership as the first female CEO of the Roanoke-Chowan Community Health Center (RCCHC) responsible for promoting and implementing human rights fundamental medical freedoms and legally required programs to ensure healthcare for citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Schwartz provided guidance to RCCHC to ensure that citizens of Hertford County and neighboring counties had at their access top of the line medical facilities allowing them to have the best possible medical experience; and

WHEREAS, she is recognized nationally, regionally, and statewide, for her exemplary services rendered to the citizens of Hertford County and neighboring counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Hertford County hereby congratulate and thank Mrs. Kim Schwartz recognizing her outstanding contributions to the citizens of Hertford County and beyond.

Adopted this the 16th day of January, 2024.

Hertford County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Andre` M. Lassiter, Sr., Chairman

Dr. Renee Tyler, NCCCC Clerk to the Board

(SEAL)



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. André Lassiter, Chairman
Mr. John D. Horton, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Leroy Douglas

Mr. Ronald J. Gatling
Mr. William F. Mitchell, Jr

RESOLUTION HONORING MR. JESSE DICKENS

- WHEREAS,** Community Leaders are not necessarily elected to their positions, it is leadership in, for, and by the community. Mr. Jesse Dickens undeniably is a community leader and native and resident of Hertford County; and
- WHEREAS,** With genuine conviction, the DNA of his community service can be found in the lives of Hertford County Public Schools' alumni and throughout the County; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Dickens', community service includes serving with the Hertford County Board of Elections Office assisting to ensure the voting process is conducted lawfully and fairly for local, state, and national elections; and
- WHEREAS,** As a retired Social Studies/Civics Instructor, he continues to support youth, young adults, and citizens of all ages through his dedicated leadership with the County voter registration drives which are fundamental to elections and the democratic process throughout the community; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Dickens' equitable commitment to community service is foundational to Hertford County citizens, and will impact generations to come, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by and for the Board of Commissioners of Hertford County, hereby congratulate and thank Mr. Jesse recognizing his outstanding contributions to the citizens of Hertford County and beyond.

Adopted this the 16th day of January, 2024. Hertford County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Andre` M. Lassiter, Sr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Dr. Renee Tyler, NCCCC Clerk to the Board

(SEAL)



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. André Lassiter, Chairman
Mr. John D. Horton, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Leroy Douglas

Mr. Ronald J. Gatling
Mr. William F. Mitchell, Jr

RESOLUTION HONORING DISTRICT COURT JUDGE W. ROB LEWIS, II

WHEREAS, District Court Judge W. Rob Lewis, II undeniably is a community leader and native and resident of Hertford County; and

WHEREAS, With genuine conviction, the DNA of his community service can be found in Hertford County and its neighboring counties serving on many boards and organizations including 14 years on the Roanoke Chowan Community College Board of Trustees (eight years as Board Chair), past president of both the Hertford County and Bertie County chapters of the NAACP, former Chairman of the Hertford County High School PTSO, founder and former advisor for Hertford County and Bertie County Teen Court programs, many other boards and organizations including the Elks White Lily Lodge # 326, and

WHEREAS, Judge Lewis' continued dedicated community service includes 13 years as Senior Pastor of Conocanary Missionary Baptist Church located in Aulander, North Carolina and former Moderator for the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association, which covers Hertford and Bertie counties; and

WHEREAS, Judge W. Rob Lewis, II's equitable commitment to community service is foundational to Hertford County citizens, which will impact generations to come, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by and for the Board of Commissioners of Hertford County, hereby congratulate and thank Judge W. Rob Lewis, II, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the citizens of Hertford County and beyond.

Adopted this the 16th day of January, 2024. Hertford County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Andre' M. Lassiter, Sr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Dr. Renee Tyler, NCCCC Clerk to the Board

(SEAL)

Build Your Future on Our Foundation

115 Justice Drive ■ Suite 1 ■ Winton, North Carolina 27986

- Proclamation Proclaiming January 2024 as Law Enforcement Appreciation Month



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. André Lassiter, Chairman
Mr. John D. Horton, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Leroy Douglas

Mr. Ronald J. Gatling
Mr. William F. Mitchell, Jr

**PROCLAMATION
PROCLAIMING JANUARY 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION MONTH**

WHEREAS, Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.) was founded in 2015 by several law enforcement related organizations, to have a day dedicated to thanking police officers across the country for their work and sacrifices.

WHEREAS, National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is commemorated annually on January 9 as a day to thank the police officers for all the work they do to protect the community; and

WHEREAS, the Hertford County Sheriff Office was incorporated in 1726. The names of 40 elected dedicated Sheriffs are engraved on the walls of the Hertford County Sheriffs' Office (37 Caucasian and three African Americans; Winfred Hardy Jr.-(1986-1997), Juan E. Vaughan (1997-2016) and Dexter A. Hayes (2016- present); and

WHEREAS, there are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the 25 sworn Deputy Sheriffs serving the Hertford County Sheriffs' Office who put their lives on the line every day; and

WHEREAS, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners make a visible statement that we strongly believe it is our responsibility to serve, connect and celebrate our law enforcement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that January 2024 is hereby proclaimed as Hertford County Law Enforcement Appreciation Month and urge the citizens of Hertford County to participate to promote the importance of the service of law enforcement officers in our community and all communities across the nation., not only on this day, but throughout the year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners will retain a copy of this Proclamation in Board records and a copy will be given to Sheriff Dexter Hayes for keeping in the Hertford County Sheriff's Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we make known to all persons in Hertford County that we do hereby set our hand and cause the Seal of Hertford County to be affixed this the 16th day of January, two thousand twenty-four.

Hertford County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Andre' M. Lassiter, Sr., Chairman

Dr. Renee Tyler, NCCCC Clerk to the Board

(SEAL)

Request Consideration of Board Appointments: Hertford County Planning Board, Hertford County Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Northern Regional Advisory Board (Trillium Health Resources)

The Board made the following Board appointments:

On a motion by Vice-Chair Horton seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board approved the appointment of Russell Johner to the **Hertford County Planning Board** for a three-year term effective January 16, 2024 and expiring December 30, 2027.

On a motion by Com. Douglas seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved the appointment of Charles Micheal Vaughan to the **Hertford County Planning Board** for a three-year term effective January 16, 2024 and expiring December 30, 2027.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Horton seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board approved the appointment of Russell Joyner to the **Hertford County Zoning Board of Adjustment** for a three-year term effective January 16, 2024 and expiring December 30, 2027.

On a motion by Com. Douglas seconded by Vice-Chair Horton, the Board approved the appointment of Charles Michael Vaughan to the **Hertford County Zoning Board of Adjustment**, for a three-year term effective January 16, 2024 and expiring December 30, 2027.

On a motion by Com. Mitchell seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board approved the appointment of Donna Chamblee Hurdle to the **Northern Regional Advisory Board (Trillium Health Resources)** for a three-year term effective January 16, 2024 and expiring December 30, 2027.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Rachel Bellis, Associate Director of Local Affairs (PETA) commented and shared a PowerPoint presentation concerning animal welfare in Hertford County.

RECOGNITIONS IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

Interim County Manager Kevin Patterson presented the following citizens to the Board for recognition to Ms. Caroline Stephenson, Ms. Kim Schwartz, Mr. Jessie Dickens, District Court Judge W. Rob Lewis, III and Sheriff Dexter Hayes.

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROJECT, COMPLETING ACCESS TO BROADBAND, CHERRY COMMUNITY CENTER, IT DEPARTMENT

Mr. Patterson provided updates as follows: Health Department Project initial estimates from Oakley Collier, renovation estimate for one of the wings at Ahoskie Elementary School,

Completing Access to Broadband working with Roanoke Connect Holdings to complete the three-party contract for the CAB Grant and the County required local contribution, a budget amendment will be added to the consent Agenda for the February meeting, Cherry Community Center payment for the nutrition site at the Amanda S. Cherry Community Resources Center, and the County agreement with SoundSide Group, Inc. is for three years (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026) with a six month termination feature for either party, a noncompete clause in their employment contracts, the IT Director position is budgeted, hiring two technicians with a combined salary of \$95,000.00 and fringe of 24%, \$22,800 and training and travel costs.

BOARD CHAIR'S/CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Tyler shared the Board Chair's/Clerk report and shared the County Mission Statement.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

The Board commented collectively thanking everyone for attending the meeting, thanked Martin Luther King, Jr. recipients their continued commitment to serving citizens and others.

CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Com. Mitchell seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board unanimously approved to move to Closed Session as allowed under NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the County Attorney.

Minutes of Closed Session are on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board.

On a motion by Com. Mitchell, seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board returned to Regular Session.

ADJOURN MEETING

On a motion by Com. Mitchell seconded by Vice-Chair Horton, the Board approved to adjourn the meeting.

Approved: February 5, 2024
The Honorable Andre` M. Lassiter, Sr., Chairman

Dr. Renee Tyler, Clerk to Board